

**Auxiliary verbs** help the main verb in the formation of the tense of the sentence. They distinguish them in person, number, mood, voice and tense. Auxiliaries are called **Anomalous** or **Special Verbs**. They are also called **Helping Verbs**. They are classified as the primary auxiliaries and the modals. The verbs that can function both as the main verb and as the auxiliary verb are called **Primary Auxiliary Verbs**. The tense of a sentence is often seen to be decided by the auxiliary verbs when main verb occurs in its progressive form or perfective form. For example,

- Sudan **is** a painter. (Main verb)
- Sudan **is** painting a beautiful picture. (Auxiliary verb)

Primary auxiliary verbs can be classified as verbs of,

- To be: is, am, are, was, were, be, been, being.
- To have: have, has, had.
- To do: do, does, did

Following table shows the list of auxiliary verbs.

Tense Form	Present	Past	Future
To be	Is, am, are, be	Was, were	Shall, will
To do	Do, does	Did	
To have	Have, has	Had	

**Modal Auxiliary Verbs** helping verbs which are not used as main verbs. Unlike primary auxiliary verbs, modal auxiliary verbs (also called modals) do help the main verbs in determining the aspect mood and the tense. Modal auxiliaries have special function of conveying specific meanings. Modal auxiliaries are also categorised as **modals** and **semi-modals** or **marginal modals**. They are:

**Modals:** shall, will, should, would, can, could, may, might, must, ought to, need to, dare to and used to.

**Semi-modals:** ought to, used to, dare to and need to.

As the modals and the semi-modals are used to convey specific meaning/s, they need to be studied independently. Let's see the usages of modals and semi-modals in English.